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Senate

The Senate met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable ROBERT P. CASEY, Jr., a Senator from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, send Your peace into our world. Hasten the day when nations will live in friendship with each other, united by their allegiance to You.

May the Members of this body build with You a world without dividing walls and partisan strife. Empower our Senators to set country above party and place Your will above all else. Keep them faithful in their efforts to unite our world. Strengthen them to work together for the common good as You place Your peace that passes all understanding in their hearts. Bless them abundantly beyond all that they can imagine.

We pray in the Name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable ROBERT P. CASEY, Jr., led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 29, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable ROBERT P. CASEY, Jr., a Senator from the State of Pennsylvania, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. CASEY thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we will immediately resume consideration of H.R. 1591, the supplemental appropriations bill, and begin the process of voting on amendments which remain in order. There are only five amendments which remain in order to the bill. I encourage all Members to remain in the Chamber for these votes so committees and other meetings that are taking place throughout the Capitol can go forward on schedule.

There is a lot of business to be conducted today. I extend my appreciation to all Senators, especially Senator McCONNELL, for helping us work through the morass we had yesterday. It was very difficult, but we worked through it, and I think it will allow us to get the bill to the President more quickly.

We all acknowledge that the bill is imperfect. That is what conferences are all about. Let's see what we can do to improve it in conference.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. McCONNELL. Parliamentary inquiry: Are the subsequent votes after the first one 10-minute votes?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. That has not been established.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all votes after the first vote in the stack which is coming up be 10-minute votes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, let me add while my friend the majority leader is here that I hope he joins my view that having finished this supplemental appropriations bill today, we hope the staffs of the two Appropriations Committees in the House and Senate will work expeditiously to finish the conference so it can be approved, hopefully, on the first day we are back, after the House comes back, and we can get it down to the President for the inevitable veto so we can get through this process again and get the much needed money to the troops.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I say to my distinguished friend, we hope we can have the conference start tomorrow. Tomorrow is Friday, and the fact that we will be out of session a week and the House 2 weeks does not mean Members of Congress cannot be here working on this bill. We all acknowledge, in the first several days—this is a big bill, and staff will do a lot of work, as it has always done. The managers of the bill, both in the House and Senate, majority and minority, will be heavily involved in this conference, and other members of the subcommittees—the chairs and ranking members—as necessary will be involved.

This is an important piece of legislation. No matter the time of year we do these supplemental appropriations bills, they are important. It is an emergency. That is why we are here. While people may not agree as to what is in

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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the bill, we all agree something needs to be done very quickly. We will move this just as quickly as we can.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

U.S. TROOP READINESS, VETERANS' HEALTH, AND IRAQ ACCOUNTABILITY ACT, 2007

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 1591, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1591) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Cochran (for Lugar) amendment No. 690, to provide that, of the funds appropriated by this act under the headings "DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR PROGRAMS" and "ECONOMIC SUPPORT FUND" (except for the Community Action Program), up to \$50 million may be made available to support and maintain a civilian reserve corps.

Obama amendment No. 664, to appropriate an additional \$58 million for Defense Health Program for additional mental health and related personnel, an additional \$10 million for operation and maintenance for each of the military departments for improved physical disability evaluations of members of the Armed Forces, and an additional \$15 million for Defense Health Program for women's mental health services.

Webb amendment No. 692, to prohibit the use of funds for military operations in Iran.

Coburn amendment No. 649, to remove a \$2 million earmark for the University of Vermont.

Coburn amendment No. 656, to require timely public disclosure of Government reports submitted to Congress.

Coburn amendment No. 717, to make certain provisions inapplicable.

Coburn amendment No. 718, to make certain provisions inapplicable.

Reid amendment No. 823 (to amendment No. 690), to establish the enactment date.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, all time postclosure has expired.

AMENDMENT NO. 823 WITHDRAWN

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, amendment No. 823, offered by the Senator from Nevada, Mr. REID, is withdrawn.

AMENDMENT NO. 690

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, amendment No. 690, offered by the Senator from Indiana, Mr. LUGAR, is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 690) was agreed to.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, all pending amendments, other than amendment No. 649, offered by the Senator from Oklahoma, Mr. COBURN, are withdrawn.

The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I understand under the order that there

will be 4 minutes equally divided before each amendment. The first amendment we are considering is the Ensign amendment; is that correct?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. That is correct.

Mrs. MURRAY. I see the Senator from Nevada is on the floor, so I yield the floor.

AMENDMENT NO. 752, AS MODIFIED

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I understand a modification of my amendment is at the desk. I call it up.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. That is correct. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. ENSIGN] proposes an amendment numbered 752, as modified.

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

On page 3, strike lines 13 through 22 and insert the following:

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS

For an additional amount for "Salaries and Expenses, United States Attorneys", \$12,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

UNITED STATES MARSHALS SERVICE SALARIES AND EXPENSES, UNITED STATES MARSHALS SERVICE

For an additional amount for "Salaries and Expenses, United States Marshals Service", \$32,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008: *Provided*, That of the amounts made available in this Act for "Educational and Cultural Exchange Programs", \$15,000,000 is rescinded.

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, very simply, this amendment reduces spending for the Educational and Cultural Exchange Program fund in order to provide spending for implementation of the Adam Walsh Act. My amendment provides funding for the United States Attorneys to prosecute sexual predators who target children and also for the United States Marshals to track down the nearly 100,000 sex offenders in the United States who have failed to register as a sex offender as required by law.

The bill before the Senate is an emergency spending bill. I strongly believe that funding the critical programs contained in the Adam Walsh Act is an emergency: 100,000 predators on our streets who are unregistered as sex offenders. They need to be registered. So that parents know where they are so that they can protect their children. That is an emergency.

I know some people hold the sincere belief that the Educational and Cultural Exchange program is very worthwhile. I don't question their opinion, but I question whether funding it is truly an emergency. I want to give a few examples of the kind of projects that the Educational and Cultural Exchange program funds. Last year, ac-

cording to the State Department Web site, this program funded the following: We sent a bluegrass band to China. We taught weaving and dyeing techniques with Uzbek women. We sent jazz musicians to Madagascar. We paid for breakdancers to tour Denmark, Argentina, Croatia, and Kiev. Those may be worthy cross-cultural activities to pursue, but I cannot stand here and suggest they are emergencies that are of greater need to fund than providing law enforcement with the resources need to protect our children, especially at a time of war.

Let's use emergency funding for real emergencies in this country. If you are a parent today and you have children out there, knowing where those sex offenders are so you can keep your children safe I would say does constitute an emergency. I recommend and urge my colleagues to support this important amendment.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, as a former prosecutor I am a strong supporter of the Marshals Service.

We have the Commerce, Justice, Science appropriations bill to fund the U.S. Marshals Service, and there is already \$25 million in this bill to support their important work, which is \$11 million more than was requested by the President.

The amendment offered by the Senator from Nevada has a lot of appeal. Who would not want to support additional funding for the U.S. Marshals Service, or for a whole lot of other programs, for that matter. Police, fire departments, hospitals, schools—the list is limitless.

It is unfortunate that the Senator's amendment would be paid for by cutting \$15 million in this supplemental bill, requested by the President, to fund international educational and cultural exchange programs. In other words, he reaches across subcommittees to a completely different budget from that which funds the Marshals Service. That is a mistake. It is a road we should not go down.

Should we also take money to train teachers in Afghanistan and use it instead to refurbish public schools in the United States? What about cutting funding for reconstruction in Lebanon to pay for new vehicles and equipment for our police and fire departments? Or we could cut the funding in this bill to combat the spread of avian flu and use it instead for victims of crime programs or drug treatment programs here at home.

Any of those amendments would pass overwhelmingly in the Senate.

But is that really how we want to do our business? The reputation of the United States today has taken a beating unparalleled in our history. We are reviled in the Muslim world. Even our traditional allies have lost faith in our leadership. During his recent trip to Latin America, President Bush encountered this hostility at every stop.

Our image has been tarnished, our influence badly eroded. This is an emergency bill to combat terrorism, and